

LIFE CYCLE OF THE BLACKLEGGED TICK

Ticks have 4 life stages

EGG



LARVA



NYMPH



ADULT



Blacklegged ticks lay batches of **eggs** in the spring.



Ticks hatch from eggs into a **larvae** in late July and August.



After larvae have a blood meal, they molt into **nymphs** in late summer and fall. Nymphs are inactive in the winter cold months.



Nymphs will come out again in the late spring and summer.



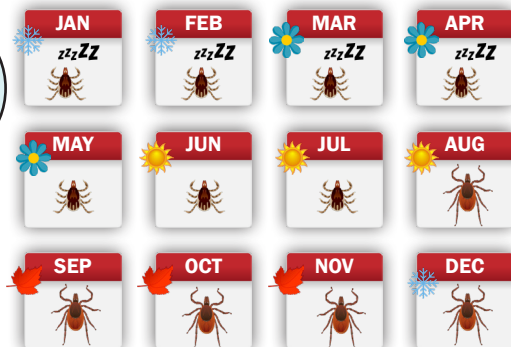
After nymphs have a blood meal, they molt into **adults**. Adult ticks are active in the fall.

Careful! Adult ticks are active all year, even on warm winter days!

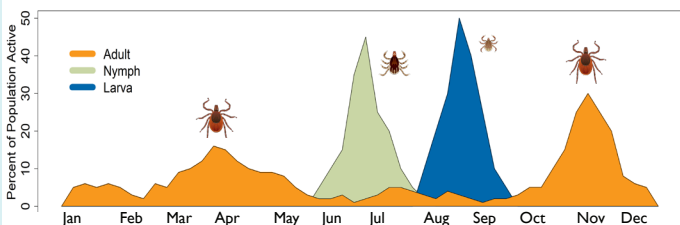
1st year
of a
tick's life



2nd year
of a
tick's life



WHEN ARE YOU MOST AT RISK?



*You are most at risk of getting sick from a tick bite when **nymph** and **adult** ticks are out in high numbers during the warm months of the year.*

Larvae



- › Human risk of infection from tick larvae is low.
- › Ticks take their first blood meal when they are larvae. Blacklegged tick larvae mostly feed on small mammals, like mice and chipmunks.
- › This blood meal is a tick's first chance to become infected with bacteria and viruses from the animal they bite.

Nymphs



- › Human risk of infection is highest with nymphs because they are very small and hard to see if they bite.
- › Ticks take their second blood meal when they are nymphs. If a tick was infected with a bacteria or virus as a larva, it can give that infection to the animal or person it feeds on as a nymph.
- › This blood meal is also a tick's second chance to pick up an infection from the animal they bite.

Adults



- › Human risk of infection from tick adults is high.
- › Ticks take their third blood meal when they are adults. Adult ticks could have been infected with a bacteria or virus as a larva OR as a nymph.
- › Adult ticks are easier to see than nymphs, but are more likely to carry a disease agent that can make you sick.

Visit neregionalvectorcenter.com or dontgettickedy.org to learn more!

